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LETTER DATED 1 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following the press statement on Kosovo by the President of the Security Council on 30 August 1999, I have been instructed by my Government to inform you that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia welcomes the reaffirmation of the principle of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, and the military-technical agreement. However, my Government insists on the respect of that principle in practice, which, regrettably, is being violated on a daily basis. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia informed the Security Council of those violations on many occasions, including also in its memorandum on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) (S/1999/828 and Corr.1-2) and its views on the current situation in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the military-technical agreement.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia also welcomes the request for a full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the condemnation of violence. However, it is surprised that the statement makes no mention at all of the massacres of the Serbs and the systematic terror and ethnic cleansing that they and other non-Albanians have been exposed to in the presence of UNMIK and KFOR.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia also regrets that the Security Council expressed no opinion about the hundreds of thousands of foreigners who have been allowed to enter the territory of sovereign Yugoslavia illegally, engaging in terrorism, crime or in illicit trade in arms and drug trafficking.

The Security Council is reminded that Serbs are not, and cannot be, an ethnic minority in their own country, the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia and Kosovo and Metohija, a part of its territory, which is not a subject of international relations. Furthermore, the statement would have highlighted the difficulties in the implementation of the resolution much more comprehensively if it had pointed out and condemned other flagrant violations, such as the failure of the so-called KLA to demilitarize, of which ample evidence is provided by the recent mortar attack on innocent civilians in

Kosovska Mitrovica and on the Patriarchate of Pec, the seat of the Serbian Orthodox Church since the thirteenth century, on 30 August 1999.

The Security Council has turned a blind eye to the fact that the so-called KLA is engaged in terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija, that KFOR has taken a tolerant attitude towards the terrorists and that the terrorism is directed against the non-Albanian population, the Serbs in particular. Their tragedy is ignored and their brutalization, like the months-long blockades in Orahovac and Gorazdevac by Albanian gangs, takes place with KFOR in attendance unconcerned.

Bearing in mind the gravity of the situation and, in particular, the plight of the Serbs and other non-Albanians, brought about by the failure to implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) consistently, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that urgent measures and actions are needed to overcome that situation. Such measures and actions can be provided for only in a Security Council resolution which would demand from those in violation of the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999) to implement them fully and momentarily on pain of appropriate sanctions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.